

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – NOVEMBER 10, 2014  
RECREATION CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Reiza Ali  
Ron Guman  
Herbert Kamm  
Calvin Wells

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Yolanda Goebel  
Linda Lydia

Timothy Hamilton, Parks/Athletics Manager, Veronica Williams, Recreation Superintendent, Rashidah Madyun, Senior Activities Supervisor and Assistant Police Chief Brian Heard were staff members in attendance.

Bart Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm because Chairperson Ramiro Sanchez resigned.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

No one was present to speak during the public discussion period.

Item #2 – Discussion and Elect a New Chairperson:

Bart Stevenson informed the Board that Chairperson Ramiro Sanchez had turned in his resignation; therefore, leaving an opportunity for a new Chairperson to be elected. Herb Kamm nominated Ron Guman. Calvin Wells seconded the nomination. Bart Stevenson asked Ron Guman if he would accept the nomination; Ron replied that he would. A vote of 3-0 (Ali, Kamm and Wells) in favor of Ron Guman becoming the new Park Board Chairperson was taken. Ron Guman accepted the position of new Park Board Chairperson.

Item #3 – Discuss and Consider Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 8th (regular meeting), September 29<sup>th</sup> (special meeting at Red Bird Park) and October 20, 2014 (regular meeting with no quorum) was made by Herb Kamm and seconded by Ron Guman. The motion passed 4- 0. (Ali, Guman, Kamm, and Wells). Yolanda Goebel and Linda Lydia were not in attendance.

Item #4 – Meet and Greet New Staff Members:

Bart Stevenson introduced Veronica Williams the new Recreation Superintendent and Rashidah Madyun the new Senior Activities Supervisor. Veronica Williams began the introductions. She recently had experience at the Duncanville Fieldhouse filling in as their Recreation Specialist. She brings vast marketing and business skills to the department. Ms. Williams commented that she is super-excited to be a part of the Parks and Recreation Team. Bart Stevenson noted that having Veronica on our team would take our department to new levels.

Rashidah Madyun introduced herself next to the Board. Rashidah is from the Urban League of Greater Dallas; a grant writer and a people's person.

Item #5 – Discussion on Work Plan for FY2015:

Bart Stevenson suggested that everyone view the video regarding the 101 Ways to Move Forward with objectives and goals. Mr. Stevenson announced to the Board that the Board would be helping with the Comprehensive Plan and the Park Master Plan. He also noted that the City was having a Boards and Commissions Fair on December 15, 2014 at the D.L. Hopkins Jr. Senior Center. He told the Board that this fair should help in recruiting new members. Herb Kamm asked Bart regarding the time frame for new members. Bart commented that interviews for new Board members would be in late December and possibly have new members in place by February 1, 2015.

Item #6 – Staff Reports

- A. **Park Ranger – Police Department** – Bart Stevenson introduced Assistant Police Chief Brian Heard to the Board. Mr. Heard discussed how the department was proceeding with this position.
- He told the Board that it takes approximately 15 months from Council authorization to functional and ready for the street for the hiring of an officer.
  - Because of the high priority on this position, the department will be using an experienced, minimum of two (2) years of experience, officer from patrol.
  - Based on an analysis of calls for services in the city parks, the Park Ranger will work a late evening/early morning shift. He commented that surprisingly Friday and Saturday nights are not high call nights. Sunday/Monday are the two (2) highest call volume days.
  - Either the Park Ranger or assigned supervisor will attend the Park Board meetings.
  - He encouraged the Board to do ride-alongs with the Park Ranger.
  - He stated that they anticipated having the position filled by December 1, 2014.

On another note, Assistant Chief Heard announced that two Segways had been purchased for use at the parks of Harrington, Lions, Armstrong and Red Bird as new facilities permit.

- B. **Budget Update** – Parks/Athletics Manager, Timothy Hamilton, talked about the new budget year and what to expect. He listed out new projects that were getting started: Lightning detectors have been purchased. There is a need to develop the policy for lightning detector use. Mr. Hamilton said that the new Athletics person would be starting later this month. Bart Stevenson announced that new flooring had been selected for the recreation center and library. Mr. Stevenson also told the Board that he was getting quotes for the restroom and Red Bird Park and the shades for Armstrong Park.
- C. **Fieldhouse Update** – Bart Stevenson told the Board that it is a quiet time at the Fieldhouse; however, very soon the volleyball league and Jiu Jitsu league would be starting up for their seasons. Bart also told the Board that the current signage for the Fieldhouse would be coming down with the pole sign being first.
- D. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Veronica Williams stated that she would be showing the movie "Freebirds" on November 21<sup>st</sup> at Armstrong Park. November 24<sup>th</sup> starts our

Thanksgiving Camp. She told the Board to mark December 5<sup>th</sup> on their calendars for the Christmas Parade with the "Frozen" theme. She commented that there will be a Re-Grand Opening health fair in the near future.

Rashidah Madyun advised there would be a Veteran's Day program tomorrow. She also invited the Board to come see their play, "Play your cards right, Ebenezer". After reports of seniors being targeted with scams, she is having a program on how they can protect themselves from such. Rashidah wanted to get a Pickleball league going for seniors for their activity to possibly do at the gym.

A motion was made by Reiza Ali for adjournment; seconded by Herbert Kamm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm unanimously.



Pam Willis  
Recording Secretary



Ron Guman  
Chairperson

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